

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FEDERAL PREPAREDNESS AGENCY GSA-WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1704

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MPOL, NATO  
SUBJECT: COUNCIL OPERATIONS AND EXERCISES COMMITTEE (COEC) MEETING  
ON MARCH 22, 1977

REFERENCE: USDELMC 177/77 DTG 231814Z MAR 77 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: THE COEC MET ON MARCH 22 TO EXCHANGE INITIAL  
IMPRESSIONS OF EXERCISE WINTEX 77. THE CHAIRMAN (MACBRIEN)  
ALSO RAISED THE SUBJECT OF WINTEXT/CIMEX 79 UNDER "ANY  
OTHER BUSINESS" (REPORTED SEPTTEL). ACTION REQUESTED:  
WASHINGTON COMMENTS. END SUMMARY.

1. AS THE ANNOUNCED PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO EXCHANGE  
FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF THE EXERCISE, MOST REPRESENTATIVES  
PRESENTED PERSONAL, UNINSTRUCTED VIEWS. THE  
DISCUSSION CAN BE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:  
A. A NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES (CA, DE, GE, UK, AND US)  
NOTED THAT THERE ONCE AGAIN HAD BEEN A PREPONDERANCE OF  
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MILITARY OVER POLITICAL PLAY. SEVERAL REPRESENTATIVES  
ATTRIBUTED THIS SITUATION TO THE EXERCISE SCENARIO.  
HOWEVER, A NUMBER OF OTHERS FELT THAT AMPLE OPPORTUNITY  
EXISTED IN THE SCENARIO FOR MORE POLITICAL  
PLAY, BUT THE ABSENCE OF THE DPC'S SUPPORTING CAST  
(I.E., THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE, THE ALERTS COMMITTEE, ETC.)  
RESULTED IN A FAILURE TO PREPARE THE DPC ADEQUATELY TO ENGAGE  
IN POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS.  
B. A NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES (NL, NO, TK, AND US)  
NOTED THAT SEVERAL KEY MESSAGES FROM THE MAJOR NATO

COMMANDERS WERE NOT TRANSMITTED SIMULTANEOUSLY TO CAPITALS, THEREBY COMPLICATING THE GUIDANCE PROCESS CONSIDERABLY.

C. SEVERAL REPRESENTATIVE (CA, NL, AND US) QUESTIONED THE EFFICACY OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE - DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING CYCLE (WHICH TAKES FOUR OR FIVE HOURS FOR A SINGLE ITERATION) IN AN ACTUAL CRISIS SITUATION.

D. THE UK AND US REPRESENTATIVES COMMENTED THAT THE PLAY INVOLVING DPC APPROVAL OF RULES OF ENGAGEMENT WENT POORLY. SEVERAL REPRESENTATIVES NOTED THAT RULES OF ENGAGEMENT SHOULD PROBABLY BE HANDLED IN THE SAME MANNER AS THE NATO ALERT SYSTEM, I.E., BY FORMATION OF A SEPARATE COMMITTEE TO PROCESS ROUTINE REQUESTS WITH ONLY THOSE RULES INVOLVING SENSITIVE POLITICAL OR ESCALATORY MEASURES ON WHICH CAPITALS HAVE NOT ALL AGREED BEING CALLED TO THE DPC'S ATTENTION. THE MILITARY COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTED THAT THE MARITIME RULES OF ENGAGEMENT, IN PARTICULAR, NEEDED TO BE SIMPLIFIED.

E. THE UK AND US REPRESENTATIVES EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE ADEQUANCY OF THE PROCEDURES FOR DECLARATION OF GENERAL ALERT AND THE DESIGNATION OF HOSTILE COUNTRIES AS PLAYED DURING THE EXERCISE. THE US REP SUGGESTED THAT THE FIRST STEP IN DETERMINING WHAT, IF ANY, PROBLEMS EXISTED WOULD BE FOR THE MILITARY COMMITTEE TO DEFINE PRECISELY WHAT HANDICAPS THE MAJOR NATO COMMANDERS WOULD FACE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE ONSET OF HOSTILITIES IF THE DECLARATION OF GENERAL ALERT OR DESIGNATION OF HOSTILE STATES/

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NATIONS FROM WHICH NATO IS BEING ATTACKED WERE TO BE DELAYED.

F. THE CANADIAN AND THE US REPS NOTED THE UNFORTUNATE BREAKDOWN IN COORDINATION BETWEEN THE AGREED PERIOD OF DPC PLAY AT THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE LEVEL AND THE DECLARATION OF GENERAL ALERT. THE FAILURE OF THE TWO TO MESH EXACERBATED THE NATURAL TENSION WHICH EXISTS BETWEEN THE WINTEX SCENARIO AND THE REQUIREMENT FOR MEASURED POLITICAL CONSULTATION.

G. THE CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE QUESTIONED THE UTILITY OF THE QUOTE RATHER LONG AND SOMEWHAT REDUNDANT END QUOTE MILITARY COMMITTEE ASSESSMENTS DURING EXERCISE DPC MEETINGS. HE ALSO COMMENTED THAT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE DID NOT FOLLOW THE STRUCTURE OF PLAY VERY WELL IN THAT HE, AT TIMES, INSISTED ON DECISIONS BEING MADE PREMATURELY AND, AT OTHER TIMES, DOWNPLAYED THE IMPORTANCE OF TIMELY DPC DECISIONS.

H. THE NETHERLANDS REP NOTED THAT SEVERAL EXTREMELY SENSITIVE POLITICAL ISSUES HAD BEEN INTRODUCED INTO THE WINTEX SCENARIO WHICH HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD NOT HAVE AGREED TO INCLUDING IN A HILEX SCENARIO. HE SPECIFICALLY CITED YUGOSLAVIA AND FINLAND. HE COMMENTED THAT SUCH ISSUES ARE SO SENSITIVE THAT COUNTRIES CANNOT REVEAL THEIR INNERMOST THOUGHTS IN AN EXERCISE SETTING AND, THEREFORE, TO INTRODUCE SUCH ISSUES INTO AN EXERCISE SERVES NO GOOD

PURPOSE AND CAN ONLY LEAD TO MISCHIEF. HE ALSO CRITICIZED  
SACLANT FOR MAKING A NUMBER OF REQUESTS NOT COVERED  
BY EXISTING PROCEDURES. HE NOTED THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE  
EXERCISE WAS TO TEST EXISTING PROCEDURES, NOT TO DEVELOP  
NEW POLICY AND PROCEDURES ON AN AD HOC BASIS. HE ALSO  
EXPRESSED DISPLEASURE WITH WHAT HE TERMED THE MILITARY  
WHEEL TURNING OUT TONS OF MESSAGES TO BE RECEIVED IN  
THE END BY QUOTE: LONELY MEN WORKING IN DARK ROOMS TRYING TO  
KEEP PACE WITH THE TORRENT. ENDQUOTE. HE ALSO OBSERVED THAT  
PRE-TAPING OF MESSAGES BY PLAYERS QUOTE: MAKES A PURPORTED  
COMMUNICATIONS TEST A FAKE. END QUOTE. HE CLOSED BY SAYING THAT  
QUOTE: UNLESS RADICAL CHANGES ARE MADE, WE WILL FIND OURSELVES  
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REPEATING THE 1966 FALLEX EXPERIENCE END QUOTE. WHICH LED  
TO DPC WITHDRAWAL FROM MILITARY EXERCISE PLAY FOR A NUMBER OF  
YEARS.

1. WITH RESPECT TO THE PLAY OF SENSITIVE ISSUES, THE  
TURKISH REP NOTED HIS GOVERNMENT'S DISPLEASURE WITH  
SEVERAL UNSPECIFIED SCENARIO ITEMS (PROBABLY THE  
SYRIAN-IRAQI ATTACK ON TURKEY).

2. THE MILITARY COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE SUMMARIZED THE  
MILITARY COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AS REPORTED REFTEL.

3. UNDER "ANY OTHER BUSINESS", THE CHAIRMAN RAISED THE  
WINTEX/CIMEX 79 ISSUE (REPORTED SEPTTEL).

4. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON COMMENTS ON THE EXERCISE AS  
A WHOLE THAT WE CAN USE AS THE WINTEX 77 CRITIQUE CONTINUES.  
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